

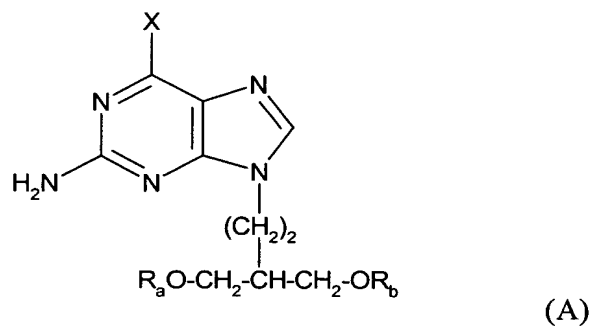
Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-20. (cancelled)

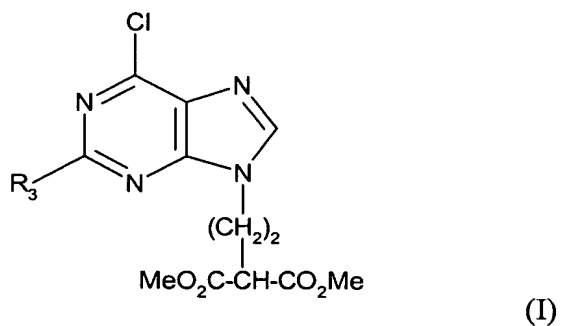
21. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (A):



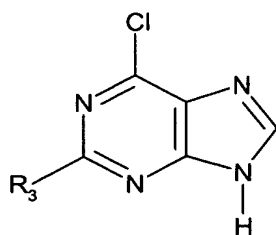
wherein

X is hydrogen or hydroxy; and R_a and R_b are hydrogen or acetyl, which process comprises:

(i) the preparation of a compound of formula (I):

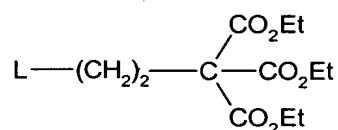


wherein R_3 is an amino group or a protected amino group, which preparation comprises the reaction of a compound of formula (II):



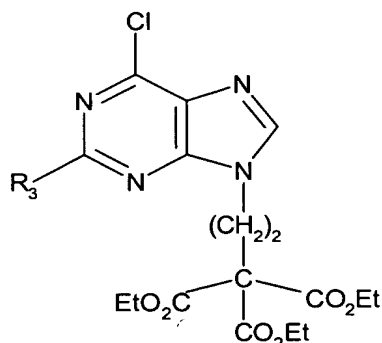
(II)

wherein R_3 is as defined above for formula (I) with a compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein L is a leaving group, to give a compound of formula (VI):



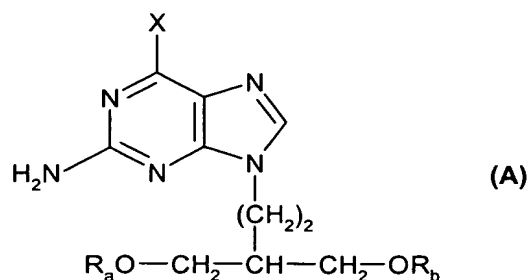
(VI)

and thereafter converting the intermediate compound of formula (VI) to a compound of formula (I) via decarboxylation with sodium methoxide in methanol; and

(ii) conversion of the resulting compound of formula (I) to a compound of formula (A) by:

- a) removal, if necessary, of the amino protecting group;
- b) reducing the ester groups CO_2Me to CH_2OH groups, and, if necessary, acetylating to form the corresponding CH_2OAc groups; and
- c) dechlorinating via a hydrogenolysis reaction to yield a compound of Formula (A) in which X is hydrogen; or dechlorinating via a hydrolysis reaction to yield a compound of Formula (A) in which X is hydroxy.

22. (new) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (A):

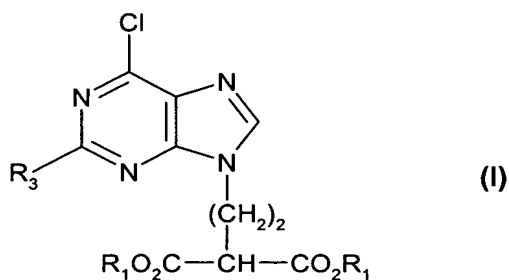


wherein

X is hydrogen or hydroxy; and

R_a and R_b are hydrogen or acetyl, which process comprises:

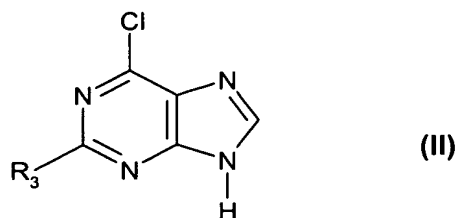
(i) the preparation of a compound of formula (I):



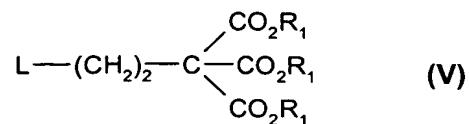
wherein

R₁ is C₁₋₆alkyl or phenylC₁₋₆alkyl, in which the phenyl group is optionally substituted; and

R₃ is an amino group or a protected amino group, which preparation comprises the reaction of a compound of formula (II):



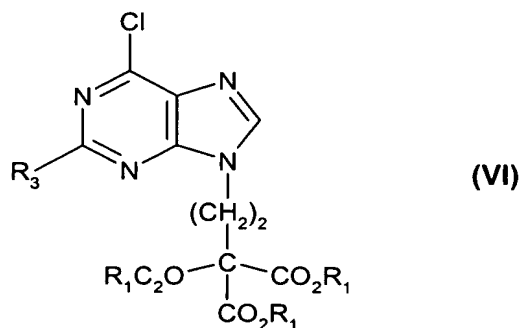
wherein R₃ is as defined above for formula (I), with a compound of formula (V):



wherein

L is a leaving group; and

R₁ is as defined above for formula (I), to give a compound of formula (VI):



and thereafter converting the intermediate compound of formula (VI) to a compound of formula (I) via decarboxylation; and

- (ii) conversion of the resulting compound of formula (I) to a compound of formula (A) by:
- a) removal, if necessary, of the amino protecting group;
 - b) reducing the ester groups CO_2R_1 to CH_2OH groups, and, if necessary, acetylating to form the corresponding CH_2OAc groups; and
 - c) dechlorinating via a hydrogenolysis reaction to yield a compound of formula (A), in which X is hydrogen; or dechlorinating via a hydrolysis reaction to yield a compound of formula (A), in which X is hydroxy,

wherein decarboxylation of the compound of formula (VI) is effected by the addition of about 0.42 equivalents of sodium methoxide.